

doubt, grounds upon which this view may be supported"; but then the *inconvenience* of considering it a subregion of a primary circumpolar region must be duly regarded!

Dr. Sclater's paper was prepared for presentation at last year's International Ornithological Congress, and forms one of the memoirs published by the Congress; it also appears, as noted above, under a somewhat different and more explicit title, and "slightly modified," in 'The Ibis' for October last.—J. A. A.

Sclater and Shelley on the Scansores and Cocyges.*—Volume XIX of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds treats of seven families of birds, as follows: Rhamphastidæ, Galbulidæ, and Bucconidæ, by Mr. Sclater, and Indicatoridæ, Capitonidæ, Cuculidæ, and Musophagidæ, by Mr. Shelley. The number of species recognized is 448, of which only 32 are not represented in the British Museum. The total number of specimens belonging to these families in the British Museum collection is 9231, among which are 123 types of species, of which 73 are admitted as valid.

The work is similar in character to that of the preceding volumes, and therefore calls for no special comment. One genus and five species and subspecies appear to be here for the first time named, as follows: (1) *Urococcyx* Shelley, gen. nov., p. 398 (type *Phanicocephus erythrogathus* Hartl.); (2) *Xantholoma intermedia* Shelley, p. 97; (3) *Capito salvini* Shelley, p. 119, pl. v, fig. 4; (4) *Brachygalba fulviventris* Sclater, p. 172; (5) *Coccyzus dominicæ* Shelley (subsp. of *C. minor*), p. 306, pl. xii, fig. 1; and (6) *Centropus purpureus* Shelley, p. 348, pl. xiii.

In view of Mr. Shelley's treatment of *Coccyzus minor*, of which he recognizes two subspecies—*maynardi* Ridgw. and *dominicæ* subsp. nov.—we are surprised that he should lump all of the large *Piayas* under *Piaya cayana*, considering the wide distribution of the group, and the great range of variation in both size and color shown by specimens from distant points in the common habitat. Doubtless the extremes grade into each other through birds from intermediate localities, yet the birds from Mexico, Guatemala, Cayenne, and southern Brazil present average differences too well marked to be wholly ignored.

The volume is a most welcome continuation of this long series of invaluable handbooks.—J. A. A.

* Catalogue | of the | Picariæ | in the | Collection | of the | British Museum. | — | Scansores and Cocyges, | containing the Families | Rhamphastidæ, Galbulidæ, and Bucconidæ, | by | P. L. Sclater, | and the Families | Indicatoridæ, Capitonidæ, Cuculidæ, | and Musophagidæ, | by | G. E. Shelley. | London: | Printed by order of the Trustees. | Sold by | Longmans & Co., 39 Paternoster Row; | B. Quaritch, 15 Piccadilly; Asher & Co., 13 Bedford Street, Covent Garden; | Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., 57 Ludgate Hill; | and at the | British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S. W. | 1891. 8vo. pp. xii+484, pl. xiii.= Vol. XIX of the Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum.